

C3 VIEWS - A JOURNAL OF REGIONAL PLANNING ISSUES FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

BALBOA PARK GOVERNANCE STUDY: A Progress Report

Beginning with a Saturday 1/2 day public meeting on March 8, 2008, the Balboa Park Committee (BPC) continues through the summer with a series of public workshops on ways and means by which the Park may be better funded and managed. These and subsequent meetings are the necessary learning process preparatory to developing a report, with recommendations relative to three specific questions posed in the January, 2008, "Balboa Park Study": 1) Can the City of San Diego provide the necessary financial support for Balboa Park in the future?; 2) Even if it can, should it do so?; 3) If it wishes to expand management and governance of the park, what are the alternatives for it to do so?

I think most of us understand the answer to Question #1 - there is never enough money for operations & maintenance, much less money for necessary capital improvements. Question #2 is relative to the very large percentage of Park users who do not live in the City of San Diego, many of them from outside of San Diego County. Question #3 is the primary focus of the current Balboa Park Committee workshops.

In May & June, the Committee heard from executive directors of local non-profit conservancies, joint powers authorities (JPAs), and foundations which manage and/or support regional parks such as Mission Trails Regional Park, the San Diego River Park Conservancy and the SDRP Foundation, the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Park Joint JPA, and similar park & open space non-profit entities. Presentations illuminated the

various ways in which such entities function and how they relate to one another where the focus area is the same, as with the San Diego River Park and the San Dieguito River Valley entities. In these examples, often 2 or more non-profit organizations work together in complementary fashions.

At the June 18 meeting, the BPC began learning about park organizations outside of San Diego County such as Forest Park (St. Louis IL) and future workshops will include discussion of the organization structures, policies and contracts for Great Park (Irvine CA) and the Central Park Conservancy (NYC). The BPC will consider City of San Diego Council Policies, the City Charter, the Municipal Code; previously reviewed the California Code of Regulations on establishing Park Districts; will review existing organizational charts and documents from agencies & organizations talked about in the workshops; will develop an understanding of all sources of Balboa Park philanthropy; and will develop a Statement of Principles to guide the Committee in discussion of the "3 Questions" and preparation of a draft report.

The next public workshop on the Balboa Park Study is set for Thursday, July 24. Check balboapark.org, the Balboa Park Committee website for location, Agendas, Minutes and electronic documents supporting presentations at each meeting: <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/brc.shtml>
The C3 parks committee meets once a month on the 4th Thursday pm. If you are interested in joining our discussions contact Judy Swink for time & location <jswink@adnc.com>

TIMELESS VOICES

"With the thought early implanted in my mind that true beauty lies in simplicity rather than ornateness, I found real joy at Rancho Santa Fe. Every environment there calls for simplicity and beauty — the gorgeous natural landscapes, the gently broken topography, the nearby mountains. No one with a sense of fitness, it seems to me, could violate these natural factors by creating anything that lacked simplicity in line and form and color".

Lilian J. Rice, Architect
The Architect and Engineer
July 1928

"Rebellion against the sordid mediocrity of the old order, and acceptance of the new idea of city planning and protective restrictions is a natural result of civilization's progress. Through experience, people have finally come to learn that art has a place in commercialism, Conceptions which once were considered to have only an aesthetic value are at last recognized as being most practical of the most practical.

Lilian Rice, Architect
The Modern Clubwoman
circa 1930

ON THE WATERFRONT (A Perpetual Update)

Our Waterfront is at a crossroads - we can join together in a new citizens coalition and stop the walling off which has occurred to the south and use what is left for public good not private profit.

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